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The Ripe Old Age.

Fredericktown, O., Dec. 27.-Jeremish Gleeson, perhaps the oldest soldier in the United States, who is a veteran of three wars, is today celebrating his one hundred and ninth birthday. He is spending the day at his farm in Monroe township in this (Knox) county.

Uncle Jerry was born in Londonderry, Ireland, December 27, 1793. At the age of 20 he came to this country on account of the oppression of the Irish by the English. At this time Ohio was considered far west in the little constellation of states which then existed. He at once became an enthusiastic patriot and such love and devotion as Gleeson showed for his adopted county is rarely exhibited even by a son of our own soil. Coming to Ohio, he at once settled on the farm which he still owns.

When the war with the Indians broke out, "Uncle Jerry" fought under General Andrew Jackson, to whom he bore a strong resemblance. He became General Jackson's friend and their friendship lasted until they were separated by the death of the general.

When the war with Mexico broke out, Gleeson enlisted under General John C. Fremont and served during the entire war. He then went into California with a party of gold seek-

THE EXISTING CONDITION OF THINGS.



A Case for the Humane Society.

ers and is said to have been the only man who ever returned from the "Pegleg" gold mine alive.

During the late civil war, Uncle Jerry once more took up arms for his adopted country, serving three years. After the war he again sought the quiet of his Monroe township home, where he has since resided. He is a prominent member of the Mt. Vernon, O., post of the Grand Army of the Republic, and on Decoration day and other special occasions, Gleeson will dress himself in his army suit and proudly march with the veterans.

Every year Gleeson celebrates his birthday by inviting a few of his old friends. Some time ago doubt was expressed concerning the extreme old age which he claimed to have reached. His friends communicated with his old parish in Ireland and received a reply stating that he was as old as he claimed.

Uncle Jerry has six children, four sons and two daughters, all of whom are now old. His wife died in 1876 of old age.

Uncle Jerry is a democrat and expects to live until Bryan is elected president.-Exchange.

An Interesting Parallel.

Governor W. H. Taft, in his report of affairs in the Philippine islands, made public on January 4, 1903, says:

"Conditions in the Philippines have made it necessary for the islands to buy about \$15,000,000 worth of food on which to live. . . . The bane of Philippine civilization in the past was ladronism, and the present conditions are most favorable for its growth and maintenance. Were there inducements to agriculture, were there prosperous conditions in the country, it would not be a troublesome matter to deal with; but when want and famine are staring the people in the face, the life of the free-booter forms to the desperate and the weak a very great attraction. The natural discontent with the government when suffering is at hand, promoted as it has been by the cholera restrictions and the high prices of rice and other commodities, which have been greatly enhanced by the depreciation of silver, might well have caused a new breaking out of the

insurrection. . . . It may be that as the conditions grow worse-for they are likely to do so before they grow better-it will be necessary in a province like Cavite, where ladronism seems inbred in the people, to proclaim martial law and even to call in the military finally to suppress it; but it is still hoped this may be avoided. . . . On the whole there is before us a year of the hardest kind of work relieving the people from the hardships and suffering likely to follow the failure of the rice crop, and suppressing ladronism and other disturbances due to economic distress.

In his speech at Arlington, May 30, 1902, President Roosevelt said:

"Whenever in the Philippines the insurrection has been definitely and finally put down, there the individual Filipino already enjoys such freedom, such personal liberty under our rule, as he could never even dream of under the rule of an 'independent' Aguinaldian oligarchy."

The president, in his speech at Memphis, Tenn., November 19, 1902, said:

"The progress of the islands, both in material well-being and as regards order and justice, has been astounding. . . . The islands have never been as orderly, as peaceful, or as prosperous

as now, and in no other Oriental country, whether ruled by Asiatics or Europeans, is there anything approaching to the amount of individual liberty and of self-government which our rule has brought to the Filipinos."

In his annual message to congress on December 2, 1902, President Roose-

velt said: "Each Filipino enjoys such rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as he has never before known during the recorded history of the islands. . . . No policy ever entered into by the American people has vindicated itself in a more signal manner than the policy of holding the Philippines, . . . Taking the work of the army and the civil authorities together, it may be questioned whether anywhere else in modern times the world has seen a better example of real constructive statesmanship than our people have given in the Philippine islands."-Exchange.

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